

PSC SETS INTERVENTION DEADLINE IN TOLL INVESTIGATION CASE

Jefferson City (August 16, 1999)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has opened a case to investigate the toll providing practices of long-distance carriers in Missouri. Establishment of this case is the result of a motion filed on July 9, 1999, by a number of local exchange telephone companies known as the Mid-Missouri Group (Alma Telephone Company, Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation, Choctaw Telephone Company, Mid-Missouri Telephone Company, Modern Telecommunications Company, MoKan Dial, Inc., Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company and Peace Valley Telephone Company).

The Mid-Missouri Group (MMG) asserts in its filing that AT&T has declined to accept requests from customers in MMG exchanges seeking to pick AT&T as their intraLATA toll provider. MMG believes that AT&T's actions raise the question of what obligations long distance carriers have to serve customers that request service. MMG has asked the Commission to determine to what extent a long distance carrier can refuse service to a prospective customer and to what extent a long distance carrier can offer different services in different geographic areas. In a July 15, 1999, filing several other local exchange companies which comprise the Small Telephone Company Group stated that customers of its members had similar experiences with AT&T.

AT&T has stated that it has not made a decision on whether to provide 1 + intraLATA service in certain markets in Missouri.

The Commission has opened a case on this matter because the Commission is "...concerned with AT&T's refusal to offer 1 + intraLATA service to customers who request it." The Commission stated in its order, "AT&T will be ordered to file a verified report stating, by exchange, the number of requests for 1 + intraLATA service it has received, the number it has accepted, and the number it has declined." The Commission has also ordered the PSC Staff to investigate.

(More)

Applications to intervene and participate in this case must be filed on or before August 24, 1999, with Dale Hardy Roberts, Secretary, Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application should be sent to: Paul S. DeFord, Lathrop & Gage L.C., 2345 Grand Blvd., Ste. 2800, Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2684; Craig S. Johnson, Andereck, Evans, Milne, Peace & Baumhoer, P.O. Box 1438, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102; W.R. England, III, Brydon, Swearengen & England P.C., P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102; and the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

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Case No. TO-2000-16